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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

**NOTICE OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST
BUREAU OF AIR QUALITY PERMITTING EXEMPTION LIST (FEBRUARY 2016)**

Statutory Authority: S.C. Code Section 48-1-10 et seq.

In accordance with South Carolina (SC) Regulation 61-62.1, *Definitions and General Requirements*, Section (II)(B)(2), the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (Department or DHEC) has determined that no construction permits shall be required for the sources listed below unless otherwise specified by state or federal requirements. The exemption status may change upon the promulgation of new regulatory requirements applicable to these sources.

The Department is placing the exempt sources listed in Section II(B)(2) and other sources that have been determined will not interfere with attainment or maintenance of any state or federal standard, on a list of sources to be exempted without further review. This list of exempt sources will be maintained by the Department and periodically published in the *South Carolina State Register*. Additionally, this list of exempt sources will be maintained on the DHEC website at: <http://www.scdhec.gov/Environment/AirQuality/ConstructionPermits/Exemptions/>. If you have questions or comments, please contact Hetal Patel, Division of Engineering Services, at (803) 898-4123.

The construction permitting exemptions do not relieve the owner or operator of any source from any obligation to comply with any other applicable requirements. Whether exempt or not, the emissions will need to be included when determining whether a facility or project is subject to an applicable air regulation such as Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD), Title V, or Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT) standards. The Department reserves the right to require a construction permit and the need for permit(s) will be made by the Department on a case-by-case basis. Sources listed under Section A will not require recordkeeping. Sources listed under Section B will require recordkeeping.

Section A.

The following activities/emission sources are considered insignificant and are not required to be documented unless otherwise specified by any state or federal requirements.

1. Comfort air conditioning or ventilation systems not used to remove air contaminants generated by or released from specified units of equipment.
2. Any consumer product used for the same purposes, and in similar quantities, as would be used in normal consumer use such as janitorial cleaning supplies, office supplies, personal items, maintenance supplies, etc.
3. Recreational, residential, and portable type wood stoves, heaters, or fireplaces, and non-production related smokehouses (used exclusively for smoking food products).
4. Indoor or outdoor kerosene space heaters.
5. Domestic sewage treatment facilities (excluding combustion or incineration equipment, land farms, storage silos for dry material, or grease trap waste handling or treatment facilities).

6. Water heaters which are used solely for domestic purposes.
7. Motor vehicles, aircraft, marine vessels, locomotives, tractors or other self-propelled vehicles with internal combustion engines and its refueling operations. This exemption only applies to the emissions from the internal combustion engines used to propel such vehicles and the emissions associated with refueling.
8. Fugitive particulate emissions from passenger vehicle traffic and routine lawn and grounds keeping operations.
9. Laboratory equipment and compounds used for chemical, biological or physical analyses such as quality control, environmental monitoring, bench-scale research or studies, training in chemical analysis techniques, and minor research and development (this does not apply to facilities where R&D is the primary objective). This exemption extends to the venting of in-line and in-situ process analysis equipment and other monitoring and sampling equipment.
10. Non-production laboratory equipment used at non-profit health or non-profit educational institutions for chemical or physical analyses, bench scale experimentation or training, or instruction.
11. Vacuum production devices used in laboratory operations.
12. Equipment used for hydraulic or hydrostatic testing.
13. Routine housekeeping or plant upkeep activities such as painting, roofing, paving, including all associated preparation.
14. Brazing, soldering or welding equipment used for regular maintenance at the facility.
15. Blast cleaning equipment using a suspension of abrasives in water.
16. Batch cold cleaning machines, small maintenance cleaning machines, and parts washers using only nonhalogenated solvents or CFC-113 and not subject to 40 CFR 60 Subpart JJJ (Standards of Performance for Petroleum Dry Cleaners).
17. Flares used solely to indicate danger to the public.
18. Firefighting equipment, "prop fires", and any other activities or equipment associated with firefighter training. "Prop fires" must be fired on natural gas or propane. See Section B for fire pump exemption determination.
19. Sources emitting only steam, air, nitrogen, oxygen, carbon dioxide, or any physical combination of these.
20. Farm equipment used for soil preparation, livestock handling, crop tending and harvesting and/or other farm related activities such as the application of fungicide, herbicide, pesticide, or fumigants.
21. Equipment on the premises of restaurants, industrial and manufacturing operations, etc. used solely for the purpose of preparing food for immediate human consumption.
22. Reproduction activities, such as blueprint copiers, xerographic copies, and photographic processes, except operation of such units on a commercial basis.

23. Devices used solely for safety such as pressure relief valves, rupture discs, etc., if associated with a permitted emission unit.

24. Pressurized storage tanks containing fluids such as liquid petroleum gas (LPG), liquid natural gas (LNG), natural gas, or inter gases.

25. All petroleum storage tanks less than 3.8 cubic meters (1000 gallons).

26. Water treating systems for non-contact process cooling water or boiler feedwater, and water tanks, reservoirs, or other containers designed to cool, store, or otherwise handle water (including rainwater). See Section B for non-contact cooling tower exemption determination.

27. Electric motors emitting only ozone.

28. Refrigeration equipment including Transport Refrigeration Units (TRU), except for any such equipment:

a. Using an ozone-depleting substance regulated under Title VI of the Clean Air Act and/or 40 CFR Part 82.

b. Located at a Title V source.

c. Used as or in conjunction with air pollution control equipment.

29. Construction sand and gravel facilities without crushers, grinders, or dryers. These operations shall be conducted in such a manner that a minimum of particulate matter becomes airborne. In no case shall established ambient air quality standards be exceeded at or beyond the property line. The owner/operator of all such operations shall maintain dust control on the premises and any roadway owned or controlled by the owner/operator by paving or other suitable measures. Oil treatment is prohibited.

30. Shooting ranges that are not part of a permitted source such as a military installation.

Section B.

The following activities/emission sources are exempt from construction permits however, documentation is required as specified below.

Project Emissions:

- Emissions from exempt sources must be included in total project emissions to determine regulatory applicability such as PSD, Title V, or MACT standards.

- Emissions calculations, description of the source, material safety data sheets (MSDS), throughput records, and any other information necessary to determine qualification for exemptions must be maintained and readily available.

Facility-Wide Emissions:

- Emissions from Section B shall be included in the facility-wide emissions.

Documentation:

- The above information shall be kept on site and made readily available to the Department upon request. The Bureau has developed exempt source log (Form D-0721) which may be utilized for keeping exemption details on-site.

- If your facility has an operating permit, this information shall be submitted as indicated in your operating permit.

Some exemptions may require additional information outside what is indicated above such as SC Regulation 61-62.5, Standard No. 8 demonstration (modeling), New Source Performance Standard (NSPS) and MACT requirements, etc. These additional requirements are specified within the exemptions.

For further information on exemptions, see the Bureau of Air Quality Simplifying Air Permitting Process Exemption Booklet (Exemption Booklet).

1. Stationary or portable combustion sources:

i. Burn virgin fuel and which were constructed prior to February 11, 1971, and which are not located at a facility that meets the definition of a major source as defined in Regulation 61-62.70.2(r); however, modifications at these facilities may trigger the requirement to obtain a construction permit.

a. Natural gas boilers.

b. Oil-fired boilers of 50×10^6 British thermal unit per hour (Btu/hr) rated input capacity or smaller.

c. Coal-fired boilers of 20×10^6 Btu/hr rated input capacity or smaller.

ii. Boilers and space heaters of less than 1.5×10^6 Btu/hr rated input capacity which burn only virgin liquid fuels or virgin solid fuels.

iii. Boilers and space heaters of less than 10×10^6 Btu/hr rated input capacity which burn only virgin gas fuels.

iv. Temporary replacement boilers of the same size/capacity or smaller (including the same fuel if required) remaining on-site for 12 months or less, used in place of permanent boilers while the permanent boiler is not in operation for maintenance, malfunction, or similar reason and whose emissions do not exceed those of the permanent boiler or differ from the character of the permanent boiler's emissions and whose exhaust point is within close proximity to the permanent boiler's exhaust point. This exemption excludes operation of a temporary boiler while a new boiler is under construction.

If a temporary boiler triggers a regulation such as a NSPS, then a determination that the boiler met the applicable requirements of the NSPS must be kept on-site and provided to the Department upon request. The owner/operator shall also keep a record of the startup date and usage periods of the temporary boiler and provide them to the Department upon request.

v. Fuel oil boilers with a rated input capacity of less than 7.5×10^6 Btu/hr burning oil with a sulfur content of less than 0.05 weight percent (wt%). These sources are subject to 5 year tune-up requirements per 40 CFR 63 Subpart JJJJJ, National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional Boilers Area Sources.

vi. Fuel oil boilers equipped with low NO_x burner(s) and a rated input capacity of less than 10×10^6 Btu/hr, burning oil with a sulfur content of less than 0.05 wt%. These sources are subject to 5 year tune-up requirements per 40 CFR 63 Subpart JJJJJ.

vii. Wood waste boilers with a capacity of less than 1.8×10^6 Btu/hr burning clean wood only. These sources are subject to tune-up requirements per 40 CFR 63 Subpart JJJJJ.

viii. Industrial incinerators with total design capacity of less than 1×10^6 Btu/hr including auxiliary devices used to recondition parts. The Opacity from these sources shall not exceed 20% and the facility shall maintain records documenting the contaminant being removed and possible emissions from the process.

ix. Ovens with integral afterburners used to recondition or clean parts with a combined heat input of less than 10×10^6 Btu/hr, either being electric or combusting natural gas only. The Opacity from these sources shall not exceed 20%, the particulate matter limit shall not exceed 0.5 lbs/ 10^6 Btu total heat input, and the facility shall maintain records documenting the contaminant being removed and possible emissions from the process.

2. Internal Combustion Engines:

i. Emergency or portable engines as described below:

a. Engines of less than or equal to 150 kilowatt (kW) rated capacity.

b. Engines of greater than 150 kW rated capacity designated for emergency use only and are operated a total of 500 hours per year or less for testing and maintenance and have a method to record the actual hours of use such as an hour meter.

ii. Temporary or portable engines that meet the definition of “non-road engine” below. However, processes powered by the internal combustion engine shall be evaluated for permitting applicability.

Portable or transportable, meaning designed to be and capable of being carried or moved from one location to another and does not remain at a location for more than 12 consecutive months. A location is any single site at a building, structure, facility, or installation. Any engine (or engines) that replaces an engine at a location and that is intended to perform the same or similar function as the engine replaced will be included in calculating the consecutive time period.

iii. Diesel engine driven emergency fire pumps that are operated a total of 500 hours per year or less for testing and maintenance and have a method to record the actual hours of use such as an hour meter.

iv. Internal Combustion engines used to drive compressors or pumps with a mechanical power output of less than 200 horsepower.

v. Oxidation catalyst on generators.

3. Surface Coating:

i. Stand alone powder coating operations equipped with highly efficient cartridge, cyclone or combination cartridge-cyclone collection systems to separate powder from air, or other type of process equipment designed to effectively control particulate matter and use either:

a. Electric Heated Ovens and apply less than 100 tons per year (tpy) of powder coatings.

b. Natural Gas Heated Ovens with a heat input of less than 10×10^6 Btu/hr and apply less than 98.0 tpy of powder coatings.

If hazardous air pollutant (HAP) containing materials are used, the facility is expected to demonstrate compliance with SC Standard No. 8 using air dispersion modeling. This demonstration must be maintained on-site and submitted with an operating permit renewal request. Emissions calculations, MSDS, throughput records, and any other information necessary to document qualification for this exemption must be maintained on-site and provided to the Department upon request. These emissions should be included in the facility-wide potential to emit (PTE) for the facility.

ii. Facilities that conduct surface finishing within a building and uses 3 gallons per day or less of non-HAP containing surface finishing materials such as (paints and paint components, other materials mixed with paints prior to application, and cleaning solvents). Emissions calculations, MSDS, throughput records, and any other information necessary to document qualification for this exemption must be maintained on-site and provided to the Department upon request. These emissions should be included in the facility-wide PTE for the facility.

4. Wood Working/Processing:

Good housekeeping practices that minimize fugitive emissions are required for all wood working/processing exemptions.

i. Small woodworking shops that do not conduct surface coating where the woodworking activities (such as sawing, milling, sanding, etc.) are conducted within in a building and the total combined maximum processing throughput for all woodworking equipment is less than 0.19 tons/hr. Emissions calculations, MSDS, throughput records, and any other information necessary to document qualification for this exemption must be maintained on-site and provided to the Department upon request. These emissions should be included in the facility-wide PTE for the facility.

ii. Sawmill equipment that only processes green wood (wood moisture content >12%), does not conduct fuel combustion operations, and has a maximum throughput capacity of less than 2.45×10^6 board-feet per year. Emissions calculations, MSDS, throughput records, and any other information necessary to document qualification for this exemption must be maintained on-site and provided to the Department upon request. These emissions should be included in the facility-wide PTE for the facility.

iii. The following wood shop equipment:

- a. Hand Sanders.
- b. Hand Saws (chain saw, hand drills, etc.).
- c. Hand Distressing Tools (chisel, etc.).
- d. Equipment used for boring, notching, etc.

5. Storage Vessels:

If an owner/operator is required to have an operating permit then the owner/operator shall submit a list of storage tanks installed since the last issue or revision to the previous operating permit that qualify for an exemption with any new permit renewal or modification request. If an owner/operator is not required to have an operating permit, then the owner/operator must keep a list of storage tanks that qualify for an exemption on-site and provide the list to the Department upon request.

i. Any size and combination of above ground vertical gasoline storage tanks with a total storage capacity equal to or less than 5,000 gallons and not used for distribution.

ii. Any size and combination of above ground horizontal and vertical gasoline storage tanks with a total storage capacity equal to or less than 3,000 gallons and not used for distribution.

iii. Any size and combination of above ground storage tanks with a total storage capacity equal to or less than 3,218,418 gallons containing virgin or re-refined No. 2 Fuel Oil and fuel oils similar in composition to No. 2 Fuel Oil.

iv. Any size and combination of above ground storage tanks with a total storage capacity equal to or less than 5,042,000 gallons containing virgin or re-refined No. 6 Fuel Oil, fuel oils similar in composition to No. 6 Fuel Oil, residual fuel oils and lubricating oils (i.e. motor oil, hydraulic oil).

v. Any size and combination of above ground vertical storage tanks with a total storage capacity equal to or less than 2,100,000 gallons containing Jet Kerosene.

vi. Any size and combination of above ground vertical storage tanks with a total storage capacity equal to or less than 30,000 gallons containing Jet Naphtha (JP-4).

vii. Any size and combination of above ground horizontal and vertical storage tanks with a total storage capacity equal to or less than 25,000 gallons containing JP-4.

viii. Any size and combination of above ground vertical storage tanks with a total storage capacity equal to or less than 84,000 gallons containing only Ethanol.

ix. All storage tanks, excluding those listed in Section A, with a capacity less than 38.7 cubic meters (10,000 gallons) that store organic liquids, excluding those that store a hazardous air pollutant except as an impurity.

6. Others:

i. Sources with a total uncontrolled PTE of less than five (5) tons per year each of particulates, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and carbon monoxide; uncontrolled PTE of less than 1000 pounds per month (lbs/month) of any single toxic air pollutant (TAP) and a total uncontrolled emission rate of less than 1000 lbs/month of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) will not require construction permits. Unless otherwise exempt, sources may be exempted under this section at higher emission levels if there is a demonstration that there are no applicable limits or requirements. These applicable requirements include federally applicable limits or requirements. However, these sources may be required to be included in any subsequent construction or operating permit review to ensure that there is no cause or contribution to an exceedance of any ambient air quality standard or limit. For toxic air pollutant exemptions, refer to Regulation 61-62.5, Standard No. 8. Emissions calculations and any other information necessary to document qualification for this exemption must be maintained on-site and provided to the Department upon request.

ii. Sources of VOCs greater than 1000 lbs/month may not require a permit. This determination will take into consideration, but will not be limited to, applicability to state and federal requirements. No waiver will be permissible if federal requirements apply unless otherwise exempt. Emissions calculations and any other information necessary to document qualification for this exemption and the need for permit(s) will be made by the Department on a case-by-case basis. Exempt sources of VOCs may be required to be included in any subsequent construction or operating permit review to ensure that there is no cause or contribution to an exceedance of any ambient air quality standard or limit.

iii. Grain Dryers as described below:

a. Rack dryer of less than 10×10^6 Btu/hr rated input capacity which only burns natural gas as fuel and dry maximum of 100,000 bushels/yr of grains.

b. Column dryer of less than 10×10^6 Btu/hr rated input capacity which only burns natural gas as fuel and dry maximum of 1,400,000 bushels/yr of grains.

iv. Laundry dryers, extractors, or tumblers with a maximum throughput of 100,000 lb/month of fabric processed.

v. Petroleum dry cleaning facilities with a solvent consumption less than 1,600 gallons per year and not subject to 40 CFR 60 Subpart JJJ. Emissions calculations, MSDS, throughput records, and any other information necessary to document qualification for this exemption must be maintained on-site and provided to the Department upon request. These emissions should be included in the facility-wide PTE for the facility.

vi. Air strippers used in petroleum underground storage tank (UST) cleanups with well pump rates less than or equal to 23 gallons per minute (gpm) and Benzene concentrations less than the concentration as determined by the following equation:

$$C(\text{mg/l}) = 0.075 / ((Q)(5.0\text{E-}04)) \text{ where } Q = \text{well pump rate in gpm.}$$

Air strippers used in petroleum UST cleanups with well pump rates equal to or less than 23 gpm and Benzene concentrations greater than the concentration as determined by the equation are still exempt from permitting but must first submit air dispersion modeling to comply with SC Regulation 61-62.5 Standard No. 8. Documentation of the well pump rate capacity and Benzene concentration must be maintained on-site. Emissions calculations, MSDS, throughput records, and any other information necessary to document qualification for this exemption must be maintained on-site and provided to the Department upon request. These emissions should be included in the facility-wide PTE for the facility.

vii. Mobile tub grinders, diesel or electric powered, remaining on-site for less than 12 months grinding only clean wood. Any tub grinder that replaces a grinder at a location and that is intended to perform the same or similar function as the tub grinder replaced will be included in calculating the 12 month time period. All grinding operations shall be conducted in such a manner as to minimize fugitive particulate matter emissions. If any complaints are received, then the grinding operation can be required to stop and the complaints addressed by the Department. Emissions calculations, MSDS, throughput records, and any other information necessary to document qualification for this exemption must be maintained on-site and provided to the Department upon request. These emissions should be included in the facility-wide PTE for the facility.

viii. Painting, blasting equipment, non-commercial and non-industrial vacuum cleaning systems used for regular maintenance at the facility.

ix. Welding performed for employee training purposes on equipment that is not part of a permitted source.

x. Fumigation activities that have potential emissions below exemptible rates under SC Regulations 61-62.1, Section II(b)(2)(h); facilities that perform fumigation up to several times a year to control pest infestation; and fumigation activities that are performed in portable containers which are not located at a designated area/building/warehouse/installation/pad.

xi. The processing of whole tires into shreds or specifically sized chips. This does not include the removal of metal or further size reduction by grinding or fine shredding. Good housekeeping practices that minimize fugitive emissions are required. Emissions calculations, MSDS, throughput records, and any other information necessary to document qualification for this exemption must be maintained on-site and provided to the Department upon request. These emissions should be included in the facility-wide PTE for the facility.

xii. Sources that only emit Particulate matter (PM) that is not an air toxic or hazardous air pollutant, located within a closed building (a building where minimal PM emissions escape to the outside ambient air through, but not limited to, windows, louvers, vents, and doors), all equipment associated with the process is located inside of the closed building, and do not exhaust directly through piping, a stack, etc. to the atmosphere. A facility not meeting this criterion may still request an exemption, if sufficient information is provided to verify PM emissions to the ambient atmosphere are below exemptible threshold. The PM emissions to the ambient air from each individual process or emission point must be less than five (5) tons/year. The facility must conduct proper maintenance and good housekeeping practices to aid in the minimization of fugitive emissions to the atmosphere.

xiii. Non-contact Cooling Towers that have the potential to emit of any criteria pollutant less than 5 TPY and VOC less than 1,000 lb/month are exempt from construction permit requirement. Cooling towers generally emit PM/PM₁₀/PM_{2.5} but some facilities might have VOC and HAP emissions. HAP emissions will be exempted on a case-by-case basis per Standard No. 8.

Published Date	Description of Change
November 25, 2011	Original List Published in State Register
July 26, 2013	Reorganized exemption list into categories Modified Exemptions (A)(2)(ii)(a), (B)(3)(i), (D)(1(v – Vi), (D)(3)(ii), (D)(5)(vi), (D)(5)(vii) Added exemptions (A)(1)(vi), (A)(2)(ii)(b), (A)(4), (B)(1)(iii), (B)(2)(i – iii), (B)(3)(iii), (B)(3)(v), (D)(3)(i), (D)(5)(viii – ix) and all exemptions from the SC Regulation 61-62.1, Section II(B)
November 23, 2013	Modified: A(1)(v), B(2) (i ii), B(3)(v), D(5)(iv) Added: A(1)(vi- vii), B(3)(vi vii) Removed: (A)(2)(ii) Renumbered: Changed A(2)(ii)(a) to A(2)(ii), changed A(2)(ii)(a)(1) to A(2)(ii)(a), changed A(2)(ii)(b) to A(2)(iii), C(1)(vi – xi)
July 25, 2014	Updated Exemption List based on the revisions to SC Regulation 61-62.1.
October 23, 2015	Reorganized exemption list into two sections, Section A does not require any documentations to be kept on-site, Section B are the ones which will require documentations. Modified exemptions (old exemption number in parentheses): A.3 (D.1.iii), A.18 (D.5.ii), A.26 (A.3), A.28 (B.3.vi), B.1.v (A.1.v), B.1.vii (A.1.vii), B.2.i (A.2.i), B.2.ii (A.2.ii), B.3.i (A.1.i & B.1.ii), B.4.i (B.2.i), B.4.ii (B.2.ii), B.6.xiii (B.3.v), B.6.xiv (A.3) Removed: C.1.ii, C.1.viii Added: A.25, A.27, B.1.viii, B.1.ix, B.2.iv, B.5.ix, B.6.iii, B.6.iii, B.6.ix, B.6.x
December 25, 2015	Changed title of the exemption list to BAQ Permitting Exemption List. Added: A.29 Modified on B.6.iv, B.6.xiii Moved B.6.viii to Section A as A.30
2016	The following was added to 6.xii for clarification: “all equipment associated with the process is located inside of the closed building”